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Security Council

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Letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith resolution No. 6219, dated 5 September 2002, entitled "Iran occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates in the Arab Gulf". The above-mentioned resolution was adopted at the one hundred and eighteenth regular session of the Council of the League of Arab States, at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, held on 4 and 5 September 2002, at the League of Arab States headquarters in Cairo.

I should be grateful if you would draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to the present letter and its annex, and have them circulated as a document of the Security Council

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates in the Arabian Gulf, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa

The Ministerial-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

The note by the secretariat;

The note from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates;

The preliminary report of the Secretary-General;

And the recommendation of the Political Committee,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the same subject,

Decides:

1. To express its unconditional affirmation of the full sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and its support for all the peaceful measures and actions the United Arab Emirates is taking with a view to restoring its sovereignty over the occupied islands;

2. To denounce the Iranian Government's persistence in perpetuating its occupation of the three islands and violating the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, thereby undermining security and stability in the region and posing a threat to international peace and security;

3. To condemn the construction by the Iranian Government of residential installations for the settlement of Iranians in the three occupied Arab islands;

4. To condemn Iranian military exercises that extend to the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, as well as to the country's territorial waters, its airspace, the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the three islands as an integral part of the United Arab Emirates; and to urge Iran to desist from committing such violations and engaging in provocative actions that are to be regarded as interference in the internal affairs of an independent, sovereign State, that are unhelpful for the process of building confidence, that pose a threat to security and stability in the region and that endanger the security and safety of intraregional and international shipping in the Arabian Gulf;

5. To renew its calls to the Iranian Government: to end its occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates; to refrain from imposing a fait accompli by force; to desist from building installations in the islands for the purpose of altering their demographic composition; to revoke all measures taken and remove

all installations put in place unilaterally by Iran in the three Arab islands, given that such actions and claims are null and void, have no legal effect, cannot diminish the established right of the United Arab Emirates to the three islands and are incompatible with the norms of international law and the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1949; and to pursue peaceful means to resolve the existing dispute in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the case to the International Court of Justice;

6. To express the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will reconsider its position of refusing to seek a peaceful solution to the issue of the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and will agree to do so either through serious, direct negotiations or by referral to the International Court of Justice;

7. To call upon Iran to translate into practical and concrete measures, in both word and in deed, its declared desire for improved relations with the Arab States, for dialogue and for the elimination of tension, and to do so by responding candidly to the earnest and sincere calls issued by His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Head of State of the United Arab Emirates, by the Gulf Cooperation Council, by the Damascus Declaration countries, by the Arab States, by the various country groups, by friendly States and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a peaceful settlement to the dispute concerning the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates in accordance with the relevant conventions and covenants and the norms of international law, to be reached through direct negotiations or by referral to the International Court of Justice, in order to build confidence and strengthen security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region;

8. To undertake, in the contacts maintained by all Arab States with Iran, to raise the issue of Iran's occupation of the three Arab islands in order to stress that this occupation must be ended, given that the three islands are occupied Arab territory;

9. To notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council of the importance of ensuring that the question is retained on the list of items of which the Security Council is seized until such time as Iran ends its occupation of the three Arab islands and the United Arab Emirates regains full sovereignty over them;

10. To request the Secretary-General of the League to monitor the situation and submit a report on the matter to the Council at its next session.

(Resolution 118/6219, adopted by the Ministerial-level Council of the League of Arab States on 5 September 2002 at the third meeting of its one hundred and eighteenth regular session)